

Remarks

The Office Action mailed June 3, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Applicants and the undersigned wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies he extended during a telephone interview that occurred on October 25, 2005. During the interview, the Office Action dated June 3, 2005 was discussed. More specifically, the undersigned discussed (i) the recitations of Claim 71, (ii) the recitations of the independent claims, and (iii) the cited references, specifically Joseph (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2001/0034690).

During the telephone interview, the Examiner advised the undersigned that he would allow this case if Applicants included the recitations of Claim 71 in each of the independent claims, namely Claims 1, 9, 17, 21, 30, 38, 43, 51, 58 and 65. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 21, 30, 38, 43, 51, 58 and 65 to include the recitations of allowable Claim 71. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

The following remarks have been made in consequence of the Examiner Interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present patent application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-28, 30-36, 38-41, 43-49, 51-56, 58-65 and 67-70 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-70 stand rejected. Claims 8, 16, 29, 37, 42, 50, 57, 66 and 71 have all been canceled.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a two month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2005, for the above-identified patent application from September 3, 2005, through and including November 3, 2005. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$450.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joseph (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2001/0034690) in view of Sehr (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2002/0100803) further in view of Rosenblatt (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,548) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-7 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 9 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 16 has been canceled. Claims 10-15 depend from independent Claim 9 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 10-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10-15 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 17 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claims 18-20 depend from independent Claim 17 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 are considered in combination with the

recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 18-20 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 21 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 29 has been canceled. Claims 22-28 depend from independent Claim 21 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 22-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 22-28 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 30 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 37 has been canceled. Claims 31-36 depend from independent Claim 30 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 31-36 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 30, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 31-36 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 38 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 38 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 42 has been canceled. Claims 39-41 depend from independent Claim 38 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 39-41 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 38, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 39-41 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 43 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 43 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 50 has been canceled. Claims 44-49 depend from independent Claim 43 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 44-49 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 43, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 44-49 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 51 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 51 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 57 has been canceled. Claims 52-56 depend from independent Claim 51 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 52-56 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 51, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 52-56 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 58 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 58 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claims 59-64 depend from independent Claim 58 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 59-64 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 58, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 59-64 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 65 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 71. Claim 71 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner during the above-mentioned

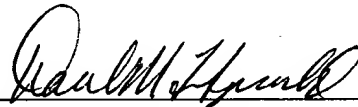
telephone interview. Accordingly, Claim 65 is patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

Claim 66 has been canceled. Claims 67-70 depend from independent Claim 65 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 67-70 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 65, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 67-70 are also patentable over Joseph in view of Sehr further in view of Rosenblatt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070